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**GILDA Z. JACOBS**  
**MICHIGAN SENATE**  
**ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC FLOOR LEADER**  
**FOURTEENTH DISTRICT**

Committees  
Economic Development, Small  
Business and Regulatory Reform VC  
Families and Human Services VC  
Government Operations  
Health Policy

# The Jacobs Report

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, March 14, 2003**

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*For the week ending March 15, 2003*

## **SENATOR JACOBS HOSTS INFORMATIONAL SEMINAR ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT PROGRAMS**

Friday, March 14, Senator Jacobs hosted a heavily-attended seminar to provide information about prescription drug discount programs available to Michigan citizens. The training program, held at the Southfield Public Library, was created for nurses, health care professionals and community leaders serving the elderly, indigent, and/or disabled.

“Prescription drug costs have become unmanageable for so many of our seniors,” said Jacobs. “There are a number of programs that offer discounts on prescription medications but many people are unaware that they exist. This seminar provided some specific information about the programs that Pfizer and other pharmaceutical companies offer and how people can take advantage of the discounts available on some commonly prescribed medications.”

In accordance with the training seminar, information about discount drug programs will be shared through faith-based organizations, senior centers, and family service agencies.

“Until a legislative solution is found to provide affordable prescription drugs for our most vulnerable citizens, we should be providing as much information as possible about programs that will help them reduce their costs,” said Jacobs. “Today’s event is just one step in that direction.”

## **STATE SENATOR JACOBS CALLS ON CONGRESS TO EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

Senator Jacobs introduced Senate Resolution 30 this week, asking the United States Congress to enact legislation to extend unemployment benefits for the over one million American workers

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who have exhausted their temporary assistance.

“There are over 50,000 Michigan citizens who have exhausted their 13 weeks of temporary benefits and have not yet found work,” said Jacobs. “I am asking the U.S. Congress to do the right thing and protect our hardworking citizens during these times of economic uncertainty.”

Jacobs’ resolution asks the Congress to provide an additional 26 weeks of benefits through the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation program. The Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is adequately funded to cover the costs of this extension.

Congress recently enacted legislation to extend unemployment benefits; however, this extension does nothing to help the over one million citizens who have already exhausted their 13 weeks of assistance. Congressional Democrats fought to have these individuals who have been out of work the longest included in the bill, but their amendment was defeated in a straight party-line vote in the Senate.

“These are difficult economic times,” said Jacobs. “It is important for our society to provide a safety net for working families who find themselves in temporary straits. I am calling on our Congressional leaders to enact this common sense legislation and protect American families.”

### **Emerald Ash Borer may Kill more Trees than Dutch Elm Disease**

The Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive metallic wood-boring beetle from Asia, has already killed or damaged thousands of trees in Southeast Michigan. As a result, much of the area is under quarantine. To make sure that residents are up-to-date with the latest research, containment and tree replacement policies, the Oakland County Extension of Michigan State University is holding a public meeting on March 26. Details are as follows:

**EMERALD ASH BORER PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Wednesday, March 26, 2003, 3:00-5:00 PM**  
**Oakland County Commissioners Auditorium**  
**Building #12 East, 1200 N. Telegraph Road**  
**Pontiac, MI 48341**

**For further information, please call: 248/858-0881**

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, and Southfield. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

**Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.**

*This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.*

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